

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of February 7, 2007 in which claims 1-23 were rejected. Claims 2-4 and 11 have been cancelled and claims 24-44 added. Claims 1, 5-10, and 12-23 have been amended without prejudice.

Regarding the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-20 and 23 because of the ellipses in various claims, these have been cancelled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is requested.

Regarding the statutory subject matter rejection of claims 21 and 22, these have been amended to recite the subject matter as being directed to a computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon, the computer program comprising instructions operable to cause a processor to perform the method of claim 1. Withdrawal of the statutory subject matter rejection of claims 21 and 22 is requested.

Regarding the novelty rejection of claims 1-5, 8-10, and 12-23 based on *Ausems et al* (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0013483), an amendment appears above to clarify the claims. First of all, the applicant would like to describe the present invention in the paragraph which follows, then describe the applied prior art and finally the rejection and our amendment.

The present invention relates to a method, a computer program product, a device and a network element for improved portrayal of navigation objects. At least two navigation objects (e.g. image hyperlinks links of an image map) are combined into one combined navigation object (e.g. a scaled graphical representation of the image map). The combined navigation object is presented (e.g. in small scale). If the combined navigation object is selected, the at least two navigation objects are presented (e.g. in large scale).

Prior Art

U.S. Publication No. 2002/0013483 (Ausems et al)

Ausems relates to a user interface for a handheld communication device 100 that includes a PDA and wireless telephone functionality (see fig. 1). the main screen 156 is a combination of windows in which different applications execute (see

Fig. 3). At the top of the main screen 156 is a system window 157, in which a system application is launched and executed therein. Below the window 157 for the system application, an application window 159 is opened and a browser, e.g. the IE, is launched therein. The browser loads a page from the memory of the PDA, i.e. the page displayed in the application window 159 is an HTML page. This page could also be downloaded from a remote server (see paragraph [0057]).

When the user selects the logo icon 164 (see Fig. 6), a folder menu 196 is displayed as a drop-down menu. From this menu, the user can add, edit, or remove an application or other group; define the content in each group; and/or arrange the sequence that appears in the drop-down menu by accessing various menu settings. These settings may be located in the system folder (i.e. control panel), or can be accessed through the last item 198 ("Edit Groups...") in the drop-down list 196. Such access will cause a file or explorer type window to be displayed, and that window allows users to drag and drop applications between groups in the conventional fashion associated with Windows-based applications (see paragraph [0074]).

From the folder menu 196 (see Fig. 6), when the user selects an application group, that group is displayed in an associated window 202, as shown in Fig. 7. In this example, the user selected the "All" application group from menu 196. In response, the corresponding All Applications folder opened in a window 202 on display 106. These folders display images taken from icons associated with the applications that make up the group. The images can be selected and used to launch the associated application programs as is commonly done using icons. The difference here is that the image is a jpg or gif (or other) image file and not a true icon. When a selection operation is performed, the browser calls a controller which launches the application associated with the screen area of the browser which was selected (i.e. the screen area of the selected image file) (see paragraph [0076]).

The menu groups arranged in folder menu 196 (see fig. 6) are default menu. Of course other groups may be used and/or created by the user (see paragraph [0081]).

U.S. Patent No. 6,570,579 (Seki et al)

Seki relates to an icon display processor for use in a computer. The processor permits a user to intuitively recognize sub-data (e.g. images or diagrams) embedded in, or linked to, main data (e.g. a text document) while a main icon symbolizing the main data is being displayed. When data B and C are embedded in document A, if a main icon is displayed, sub-icons corresponding to the embedded data are displayed behind the main icon. thus, the user can intuitively recognize the sub-data contained in the document A. A sub-icon is displayed for each item or kind of sub-data. The user can directly process the sub-icons.

With reference to Figs. 9A and 9B, a normal display mode, in which the sub-icons 48-58 are displayed closely and obliquely from the left bottom end to the right top end behind the main icon 10, and an extension display mode, in which the sub-icons are display essentially with the same format but with an increased spacing, is described (see col. 4, l. 47-65).

U.S. Patent No. 5,801,699 (Hocker et al)

Hocker relates to a graphical user interface. Users manipulate, organize, classify, and/or arrange icons by having the icons bind (stick) to one another and be moved as aggregates. Icons sticky sites may be on icons, windows, or other graphical objects. For example, when an icon with a sticky site is dragged close to another icon with a sticky site, the icons bind together and a substantially moved as one graphical unit.

U.S. Patent No. 6,031,532 (Gourdol et al)

Gourdol relates to a method and apparatus for generating composite icon images for a foreground icon and background icon. With reference to Figs. 2 and 3, it is described that a computer application or document represented by an icon 10 can have a particular status, such as being on a network, or locked, as shown in Figs. 3(a) and 3(b). Icon badges 12 can be "attached" to the base icons 10 in order to indicate, to a user, that the document or application represented by the icon has the attributes or maintains the status represented by the image of the icon badge 12.

Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-20 and 23 as being indefinite due to the use of “...” in the reference numerals. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected as being related to non-statutory subject matter.

Furthermore, the Examiner is of the opinion that claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-23 are not novel with respect to *Ausems*, and that claims 6, 7 and 11 are not inventive with respect to a combination of *Ausems* and *Seki*.

Hocker and *Gourdol* are considered as applicable and pertinent to the present application.

Applicants comments about the novelty rejection

An amendment of the independent claims has been made without prejudice based on the features that “said at least two navigation objects are graphical objects”, and that “said combining comprises merging said at least two graphical navigation objects into a combined graphical navigation object” (see original claim 2, and the disclosure on page 6, lines 13-30, in particular lines 28-30). In the amended set of claims above, in addition to the described amendment of the independent claims, all reference signs were removed. Furthermore, an independent method claim 26 directed to a method corresponding to independent device claim 23 has been added, i.e. to a device that only performs the combining, but not necessarily the presenting of the navigation objects. Furthermore, independent method claim 34 and device claim 40 have been added to the reception and presentation of such a combined navigation object. Similarly, computer-readable medium claims 30 and 39 were added. However, original claims 2-4 (graphical/voice/text object) have been canceled.

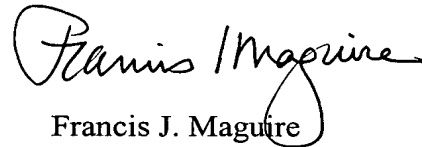
In particular the introduced feature that “said combining comprises merging said at least two graphical navigation objects into a combined graphical navigation object” should clarify that the combined navigation object has to be graphically related to the at least two navigation objects, so that it is no longer possible to assert that the menu item “All” in the drop-down menu folder 196 of Fig. 6 of *Ausems* would be a combined navigation object. The only reference in the present U.S.

proceedings that is related to the combining of graphical objects is *Gourdol*. However, the graphical elements that are combined there are only partially graphical navigation objects, since the icon badges (reference numeral 12 in Fig. 3A-3D) are not navigation objects.

Dependent claim 24 and similar dependent claims 25, 27, 31, 35 and 41 have been added, which require that the merging of the at least two navigation objects into a scaled navigation objects is performed by scaling. Scaling is not disclosed in any of the prior art references at all.

The objections and rejections of the Office Action of February 7, 2007, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of claims 1, 5-10, 12-44 to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis J. Maguire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "F".

Francis J. Maguire
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 31,391

FJM/mo
Ware, Fressola, Van Der Sluys & Adolphson LLP
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 261-1234